THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir, All blood units are tested before transfusion according to provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. This news-item on the incident relating to supply of blood unit to a patient in DDU hospital, not issued from the blood bank of the hospital, has been brought to our notice.

(d) Apart from the case mentioned in the news-item mentioned in The Ftashtriya Sahara dated 6th June, 2002, one more instance has been reported from Uttar Pradesh in which four blood banks were reportedly involved in illegal trade of blood. The proprietors of these blood banks were arrested by the police and prosecution has been launched under the I.P.C. and Section 18 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act by the UP Police and the State Drugs Control Authorities respectively. In the case reported in Rashtriya Sahara, a case has been registered under different sections of Indian Penal Code. The accused has been arrested and the matter is under investigation by the police. Also, the regulatory authorities have tightened vigil to prevent such incidents and the Medical Superintendent of DDU hospital, Delhi has been advised appropriate preventive steps.

Shortage of Dental Professors/Readers

†1977. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating a plan to ban opening of new dental colleges during next five years keeping in view shortage of Professors and Readers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for this shortage; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to redress the shortage of Professors and Readers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No decision about banning of opening of new dental colleges has been taken by the Government so far.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.